

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 03833 01 OF 02 021817Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
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P 021530Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6359
DEPARTMENT TRANSPORTATION PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 03833

DOT ATTN: ERIC BESHES

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRN, GW, UK, FR
SUBJECT: NATO/CCMS SHORT DISTANCE TRANSPORT TECHNIQUES
REPORT

REF: GALLAGHER/BESHES TELECON, 2/28/78

1. DR. HOCH HAND-CARRIED FOLLOWING REPORT TO EMBASSY
ON MARCH 2 FOR TRANSMITTAL TO DOT:
2. DEAR MR. BESHES, I REGRET THAT IT HAS NOT BEEN
POSSIBLE FOR ME TO SEND YOU EARLIER A RESUME OF THE
COMMENTS ON THE NATO/CCMS REPORT "SHORT-DISTANCE TRANS-
PORT TECHNIQUES".
3. IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY THE CCMS REPORT
HAS MET WITH SUCH GREAT INTEREST THAT THE NATO SECRETAR-
IAT IN BRUSSELS HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO GIVE ITS CONSENT
TO ANOTHER PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT IN AN EDITION OF
APPROXIMATELY 2,000 COPIES. THE REPORT WILL SOON BE
PUBLISHED IN THE GREEN SERIES "FORSCHUNG STADTVERKEHR".
THUS THE REPORT AND ITS CONCLUSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO
ALL AUTHORITIES AND AGENCIES THAT ARE CONCERNED WITH
THE PLANNING, THE INTRODUCTION, AND THE OPERATION OF
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PAGE 02 BONN 03833 01 OF 02 021817Z

URBAN MASS TRANSPORT. SINCE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS
THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY IS RESPONSIBLE ONLY FOR THE
GENERAL TRANSPORT POLICY REGULATIONS IN THE FIELD OF
URBAN MASS TRANSPORT, THEIR POSSIBILITIES ARE LARGELY
EXHAUSTED WITH THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CCMS REPORT TO
THE AUTHORITIES CONCERNED. THE EVALUATION OF THE REPORT
AND THE APPLICATION OF ITS RECOMMENDATIONS IS LEFT TO

THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE LOCALLY.

4. THE FRENCH DELEGATION'S COMMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

AS FAR AS FRANCE IS CONCERNED, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT WHILE THE REPORT WAS BEING COMPLETED, I.R.T. WAS ASSIGNED TO RE-ORIENTATE THE FRENCH TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH PROGRAM.

IMPROVEMENT OF CONVENTIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS SUCH AS URBAN BUSES ARE RECEIVING LOTS OF ATTENTION FROM THE FRENCH GROUND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE. THE FUTURE URBAN BUS PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED RECENTLY (AUTOBUS 85). A PROTOTYPE SHOULD BE AVAILABLE WITHIN THREE YEARS.

AN URBAN ELECTRIC BUS PROGRAM IS ALSO IN PREPARATION AND SHOULD BE LAUNCHED SOON.

5. THE BRITISH DELEGATION GAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENT:

WE HAVE FOUND THE SHORT-DISTANCE TRANSPORT REPORT A USEFUL INTRODUCTORY DOCUMENT TO THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT EVALUATION: PARTICULARLY USEFUL ARE THE VARIOUS CHECK-LISTS OF FACTORS AND CRITERIA TO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDER-

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PAGE 03 BONN 03833 01 OF 02 021817Z

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PAGE 01 BONN 03833 02 OF 02 021817Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 03833

ATION WHEN DESIGNING OR SELECTING A TRANSPORT SYSTEM.

THE REPORT IS PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED WITH RADICAL TRANSPORT INNOVATION, E.G. TRANSPORT SYSTEMS WITH EXCLUSIVE RIGHT OF WAY. BUT CURRENT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE CONCLUSIONS OF STUDIES WE HAVE MADE OF VARIOUS NEW TECHNOLOGIES (E.G. MINITRAM) MAKE IT UNLIKELY THAT WE SHALL BE CONSIDERING RADICALLY NEW SYSTEMS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AS A RESULT THE REPORT IS LESS LIKELY TO FIND AN APPLICATION THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN THE CASE SOME YEARS AGO: AND ONLY BY APPLYING IT CAN ITS USEFULNESS BE SOUNDLY ASSESSED. HOWEVER, THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS OF EXPERTS (SUCH AS THE GROUP WHO PREPARED THIS REPORT) IS NOT ONLY IN THE FINAL REPORT BUT ALSO IN THE EXCHANGE OF IDEAS WHICH TAKES PLACE AT THE MEETINGS.

6. AFTER THESE COMMENTS WE CAN SAY THAT THE WORK OF NATO/CCMS HAS FALLEN ON FERTILE GROUND EVERYWHERE AND HAS LED TO CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS.

I HOPE THAT THESE FEW STATEMENTS WILL BE OF SOME USE FOR YOUR REPORT. YOURS SINCERELY, J. HOCH

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PAGE 02 BONN 03833 02 OF 02 021817Z

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